



**OVER-BUDGET
REHAB CENTRE'S
DEMOLITION COSTS
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OF GOOD
FORTUNE
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TO HOST
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SKINS
GAME** {page 8}



IMPOSSIBLE?

OSCAR WINNER TAKING ON A NEW MISSION

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HALIFAX

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Tuesday, December 13, 2011
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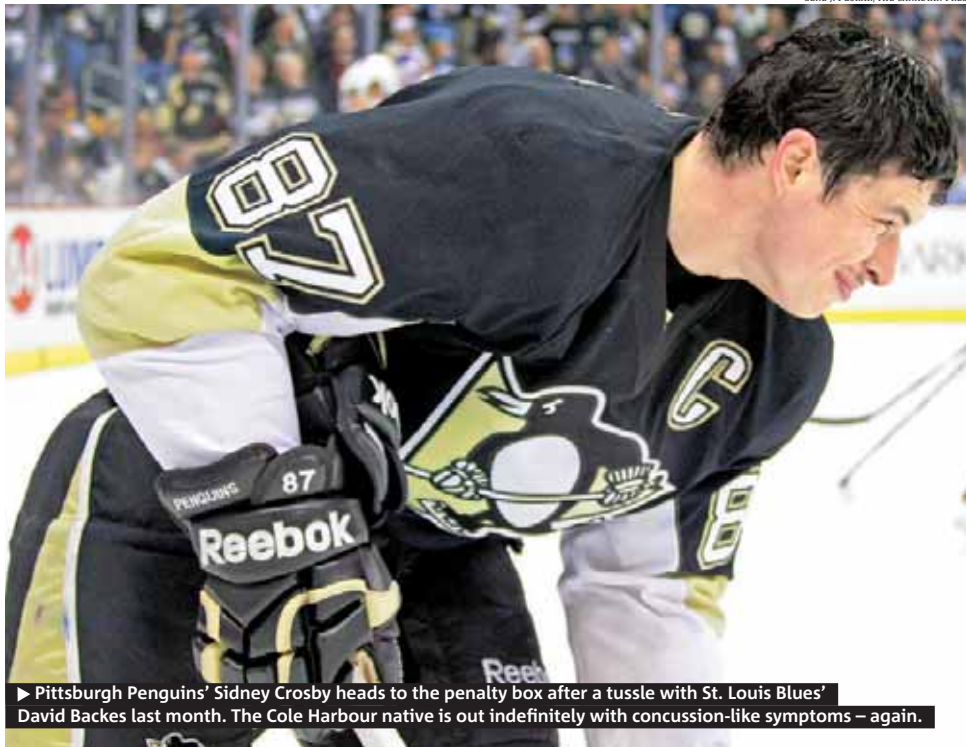


News worth sharing.

Crosby sidelined again

► Concussion-like symptoms return after another hit to the head of Penguins star ► Cole Harbour native had missed 61 games over the second half of last season and first quarter of this season before heralded comeback

GENE I. PUSKAR/THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby heads to the penalty box after a tussle with St. Louis Blues' David Backes last month. The Cole Harbour native is out indefinitely with concussion-like symptoms — again.

Cole Harbour's Sidney Crosby is back is on the shelf again — his comeback stalled indefinitely with concussion-like symptoms.

"Frustrating, I don't think that even describes it," Crosby told reporters.

Still the Pittsburgh Penguins star looked for positives yesterday, saying he is feeling "much, much better" than he did after being levelled by big hits in successive games Jan. 1 and Jan. 5 that triggered his 10-month absence from the game.

"It's much different than previously going through that stuff," Crosby said. "I'm way better off than I was dealing with this stuff 10 months ago or whatever it was."

Still it's a setback for the NHL's biggest star, only three weeks since making a spectacular comeback.

"I just figured it was better to be cautious here and not take any chances. That's kind of where I'm at right now," Crosby said. "I'm not (feeling) bad. And I'm not happy about watching. But I've got to make sure with these sort of things that I'm careful."

So what's wrong?

- Maryse Lassonde, a neuropsychologist and brain injury researcher at the University of Montreal, said when a player sustains a concussion, there is a higher probability of having subsequent concussions.
- "I don't want to speculate, but this might be the case here with Sidney Crosby."

With two goals and 10 assists through eight games, Crosby's comeback appeared to be a major success until he experienced headaches following a 3-1 loss to Boston on Dec. 5.

While Crosby absorbed several hits against the Bruins, including an elbow to the head from David Krejci, none appeared to be worrisome. He passed a concussion test on Tuesday, then went through a full practice Wednesday.

When he developed a headache shortly after that practice ended, the Penguins decided to keep him home during a brief two-game road trip.

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Shots fired at Halifax home

Police say there were no injuries after a Halifax home was shot at late Sunday night.

Just after 10:30 p.m., Halifax Regional Police say they were called to the 2200 block of Creighton Street after a residence was hit with a single shotgun blast. Several people were home at the time, with police saying two suspects were seen running from the area. Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter said yesterday they believe the home was targeted but have few other details. ● METRO

No gunplay reported as cops recover casings

Police recovered a number of spent shell casings yesterday, but no reports of shots fired or injuries.

A call came in at 11:30 a.m. regarding a number of shell casings found in the street in the 0-100 block of Kennedy Drive in Dartmouth. Police closed down Kennedy Drive to traffic while they investigated and found even more casings.

Investigators believe the casings were there for a couple of days. Police are asking for anyone with information to contact them at 490-5016 or through Crime Stoppers. ● METRO

Demolition to cost an extra \$150,000

► Rehab centre operated from 1941 to 2002 ► Site used for filming several movies and TV shows, including Trailer Park Boys



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

Contaminants found at a demolition site in Cole Harbour mean Halifax regional council is looking at another over-budget project.

HRM paid \$246,000 in 2002 for an environmental report on the former Halifax County Regional Rehabilitation Centre on Bissett Road.

That report needed updating five years later when council set aside \$2 million in the 2008-09 budget to demolish the buildings.

A fire set by arsonists in 2010 ravaged the site and set back demolition.

And now, more recently, hazardous materials, including hydrocarbons and metals such as arsenic and copper, were found underneath the slab of the south building.

Two companies working on the site will need an extra \$150,000 to deal with the contaminants.

HRM staff will ask for the extra funds at the council meeting today.

They'll also present council with two options for dealing with the contaminants: truck them out of province for \$350,000 or cap the mate-



► The former Halifax County Regional Rehabilitation Centre in Cole Harbour is seen in this file photo from last year following a fire.

rial on site for \$40,000. The provincial health department has signed off, in principle, on capping the material and monitoring it.

"Right now, when they don't know what they're doing with the property, I think it would be wise to cap it," said Cole Harbour Coun. Lorelei Nicoll.

Staff is currently work-

"These buildings that were built in the '30s and '40s — the mindset was out of sight, out of mind." COLE HARBOUR COUN. LORELEI NICOLL

ing on a report on what can be done with the site after it's clean. The 50-acre lot has an assessed property value of about \$1.46 million.

If it's developed, the capped area wouldn't be

built upon but left as a green space, Nicoll said.

Earlier this year, council spent an extra \$5.5 million to finish the Washmill Lake Court underpass because of unexpected rock removal.

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news


Study: Toddlers are likely to experience a reaction to the first shot of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine, but serious reactions are rare. Scan code for story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web

U.S. presidential hopeful Rick Perry's new campaign video has incited nearly 700 reply videos, many of which are parodies. Video at metronews.ca/video

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Parties vowing support for women

► **Poverty, housing and violence are the key issues of the Women Are Watching campaign**

It was deadline day yesterday for the province's three political parties.

In October, the Women's Alliance for Change in Nova Scotia handed the parties a list of expectations and demands, along with about 1,000 postcards of support. The organization expected a response by Human Rights Day, which was Saturday.

"Our message to the parties is to make women's issues priority issues, and not just at election time but all the time," said Christine Saulnier, one of the chairs of WACNS.

She spoke at a press conference at Province House yesterday along with representatives from all the parties.

Kelly Regan, Liberal critic for the Status of Women, read a statement from party leader Stephen McNeil pledging support for women's issues.

"We consider all of our policies for the impacts they will have on women," Regan read.

Jamie Baillie, leader of the PC party and also a critic for the Status of Women, said it's especially difficult

► From left, Tory Leader Jamie Baillie, Liberal MLA Kelly Regan and NDP cabinet minister Marilyn More at Province House yesterday.



'Baby steps'

► Lucille Harper, a chair of WACNS, said it was encouraging hearing all three parties discuss the issues but discouraging that these problems are still so predominant and long-standing. "Why are we just taking baby steps?" she asked.

for women to leave a relationship and be self-sufficient with the risk of violence.

"There are holes in the system — especially at that moment where a woman makes the move to regain

her independence, her fundamental human right to be in charge of her own life," he said.

He added better jobs and wages for women would help.

Marilyn More, minister responsible for the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women, said her party has spent \$100 million for under-income support programs.

She said the NDP has a three-year domestic-violence action plan and set up a sexual-assault committee, and she meets regularly with aboriginal groups.

● JENNIFER TAPLIN

Mom maintains her ex abused their daughter

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

The mother of an infant who died two years ago says her plea-bargain deal to testify at her former boyfriend's manslaughter trial wasn't motivated by a desire for a lighter sentence.

Jane Gomes said yesterday at the trial of Ashiqur Rahman her testimony against her former partner is true, and she isn't testifying because she signed an immunity agreement that exempted her from a manslaughter charge in March 2010.

Gomes told the trial by judge alone in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia she is taking responsibility for mistakes she made in not telling public-health nurses she saw Rahman slap and shake their baby in 2009.



► Ashiqur Rahman

"I didn't do it to get rid of the manslaughter charge. I was taking responsibility of the mistakes I made. I didn't tell the nurses that Ashiqur hit Aurora.... I was just taking responsibility for my action," she said.

Rahman, 25, has pleaded

Defence

► Defence lawyer Donald Murray concluded his cross-examination yesterday and was scheduled to begin the defence case today.

not guilty to manslaughter and aggravated assault in the July 2009 death of the couple's seven-week-old daughter, Aurora Breakthrough.

Gomes, 25, pleaded guilty last year to a charge of failing to provide the necessities of life and received a conditional discharge with six months of probation. She agreed in the plea bargain to provide testimony at Rahman's trial.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bowater bill before the house

The legislation enshrining a \$50-million bailout of the Bowater Mersey mill is making its way through the House of Assembly.

The bill gives the Region of Queens Municipality authority to give the plant's owners, Resolute Forest Products Ltd., a tax break.

The issue will go before the legislature's law amendments committee tomorrow,

where representatives from all three parties will receive public feedback, if any, on the bill.

It is unlikely the Liberals and Progressive Conservatives will give the NDP unanimous consent to refer the bill immediately back to house for passing.

"Lots of people are having the same questions we have about the deal, not so

much the bill, but the deal," said Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil.

Tory house leader Chris d'Entremont was the only member of his caucus to speak to the bill in second reading yesterday.

"You've got a bill or no bill. So either you help Queens right now or you don't help Queens," he said.

● ALEX BOUILLIER

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Stolen tools sold online: Police

A 19-year-old Lower Sackville man is facing charges relating to the alleged sale of stolen property online.

Halifax RCMP say last week someone broke into a new home being built on

Walker Avenue in Lower Sackville and took several power tools. The owner of the tools then saw one of the items being stolen online, with police executing a search warrant at a residence and a 19-year-old being arrested.

Damian Cajolais is facing charges of break-and-enter and possession of stolen property for the purpose of trafficking. **METRO**

Search on for accused

An arrest warrant has been issued for a 30-year-old Nova Scotia man accused of attempted murder.

RCMP are looking for Andrew Stephen Robinson of Indian Brook, whom police describe as a violent individual with access to firearms. He also faces an



► Andrew Stephen Robinson

aggravated assault charge. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Petty show date still unknown

- Concert will mark first time rocker has played in Halifax
- Promoter expects show to sell out

ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES



► Tom Petty will be performing in Halifax for the first time next year.



PHILIP CROUCHER
@METRONEWS.CA

June date

► With the June 3 date for St. John's, expect the Tom Petty show for Halifax to take place either a couple of days before, or after that date.

A specific date for Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers at the Halifax Metro Centre won't be known until later this week.

Concert promoter David Carver, who is bringing the legendary rockers to Atlantic Canada for two dates, announced yesterday morning the group would be playing at Mile One Stadium in St. John's on Sunday, June 3.

However, the date for the Metro Centre is still being finalized, Carver told Metro yesterday.

He said a date should be determined either "Wednesday, Thursday or Friday." He also said ticket prices for the show should match those in St. John's. Tickets for Tom Petty at Mile One Stadium

go on sale Thursday at noon and cost either \$169.50, \$149.50 or \$79.50, plus taxes and service charges.

A release was issued on Friday confirming Petty would be playing Halifax and St. John's in the spring of 2012. As well, @tompetty wrote on the band's official Twitter site on Friday: "We'll see you in #Halifax, cats out of the bag now."

Carver, a Newfoundland native, operates his own concert-promoting business and produced the show that saw Aerosmith rock P.E.I. in 2007.

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Province buys asphalt plant

► Government says facility will save money in areas with uncompetitive tendering



ALEX BOUTILLIER
@METRONEWS.CA

The province will spend \$3.56 million on a new mobile asphalt plant.

Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Minister Bill Estabrooks revealed yesterday that Florida's General Combustion Corp. has been awarded a tender to provide the mobile plant. Staff will now travel to Orlando to assess the new machine and transport it back to Nova Scotia.

Estabrooks expects the plant — along with a new provincial chip-sealing crew — will save the province money in areas of

\$281M The amount the province plans to spend on roads and road paving in 2011-2012.

the province where government paving tenders are not receiving competitive bids.

"There are various parts of the province where there's a lack of competitive bidding, and because of the lack of competitive bids, with this mobile asphalt plant located there, hopefully we'll be able to offer the quality for secondary roads that people expect," Estabrooks said.

He first announced that

the province will be re-entering the paving business in February. At the time, his department estimated the total cost of the undertaking to be about \$6 million, with savings projected at

\$4.7 million a year.

In October, Estabrooks admitted the provincial chip-sealing crew did not meet their targets for the year — but estimated \$1 million had been saved to

date.

Progressive Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie wasn't so sure.

"The government's chip-sealing operation failed in every measure the NDP set

for it," said Baillie. "Now, going to Florida to (spend) \$3.6 million, is another example of the government making poor choices when it comes to taxpayers' money."



► Estabrooks

Gravelton ticks found to carry Lyme disease

A community in Yarmouth County has been added to a list of places where ticks have been found to carry the bacteria that can cause Lyme disease.

The provincial government says a surveillance program identified the bacteria in field work done in and around Gravelton.

The community is one of a number of areas in the province where ticks have been identified as carrying the bacteria.

The medical officer of health for South West Health says this isn't the

What's the risk?

► Ticks are active until the first permanent snowfall or when air temperatures are consistently below 4 C.

time of the year when ticks are typically most active and the risk of contracting Lyme disease is low.

But Dr. Lynda Earle says people should keep the risk in mind when working or playing in grassy and wooded areas.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

Police probe armed robbery

TRURO. Police are investigating an armed robbery at a gas station in Truro.

Officers responded to an alarm from the Esso station on Robie Street at 6:20 a.m. yesterday.

Police say a male with a knife robbed a clerk of a quantity of cash, then fled on foot.

The suspect was wearing a black hoodie and black pants.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man escapes house fire

WESTVILLE, PICTOU. A man escaped his home without injury early yesterday morning after he was woken by neighbours and told his house was on fire.

Westville firefighters responded to a call around 3:30 a.m. that a Church Street residence was on fire.

Officials say the home sustained considerable damage from the fire that started in the chimney.

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Halifax sinks birdie by landing skins game

► Tournament a marquee golf event ► Tickets should go on sale in spring

Major players



Past participants in the Telus World Skins Game have included:

- Jack Nicklaus
- Sergio Garcia (pictured)
- Phil Mickelson
- Fred Couples
- Mike Weir
- Greg Norman

PHILIP CROUCHER
@METRONEWS.CA

We don't know who will be teeing up in Halifax, but we know they'll be darn good.

The Telus World Skins Game announced yesterday the Glen Arbour Golf Course in Hammonds Plains would be hosting the event's 20th edition on July 29 to 31.

It will mark the first time Halifax has hosted the tournament, with five PGA tour professionals taking part in a skins game format.

"We're thrilled," said Glen Arbour's general manager and course superintendent Mike DeYoung. "It's great for Glen Arbour,

great for the province and great for the city to bring in some of the best golfers in the world. It's a win-win for everybody."

Anthony Kim, Lucas Glover, Paul Casey, Jhonattan Vegas and Canadian Stephen Ames participated in last year's event held in Banff. Vegas came out on top, so he would be a good bet to be back to defend his title.

"A lot of guys already have an idea for their schedules in 2012, but you want to get to them good and early to see what we can do to try and put together the field," said Dave Haggith with IMG Canada, who is helping stage the event. "Last year we worked closely with Nike

— it was an all-Nike field last year — and we'll be working closely with them again this year."

Hosting major golf events is nothing new for Glen Arbour. In July 2005, the 11-year-old course hosted the LPGA's BMO Canadian Women's Open and in 2000 the inaugural Wayne Gretzky and Friends Invitational took place featuring Canadian PGA tour star Mike Weir.

"There's no doubt golf needs a little bump," DeYoung said. "Things haven't been great with the weather the last couple of years, so I think it will help. It may get some kids involved in the game and get people exposed to high-level athletes."



► Glen Arbour Golf Course is seen in this file photo during the BMO Canadian Women's Open in 2005. Glen Arbour will host the Telus World Skins Game next summer.

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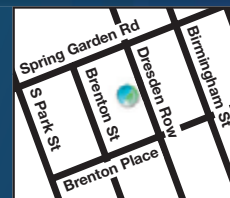


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It's official: We're out of Kyoto

► New climate deal to be signed in 2015, and would kick in after 2020

Canada is pulling out of the world's only binding climate treaty.

Environment Minister Peter Kent says Canada is withdrawing from the Kyoto Protocol.

"We are invoking Canada's legal right to formally withdraw from Kyoto," Kent said outside the House of Commons.

"This decision formalizes what we've said since 2006, that we will not implement the Kyoto Protocol."

Canada signed Kyoto in the late 1990s, but neither the current Conservative government nor their Liberal predecessors met targets. Kent says the move saves Canada \$14 billion in penalties for not achieving

"The Harper government has imposed a death sentence on many of the world's most vulnerable populations by pulling out of Kyoto."

MIKE HUDEMA,
GREENPEACE CANADA

its Kyoto targets.

Kent says he would not be surprised if other countries follow Canada in pulling out of Kyoto.

At the Durban talks, Canada joined Russia and Japan in refusing to sign on for a second round of Kyoto commitments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bear. In Vancouver



► An officer, holding a tranquilizer gun, watches a black bear perched on top of a garbage truck in downtown Vancouver yesterday.

JAMES GEMMILL/VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Cub to be set free in the wild

It appears the black bear cub got trapped in the garbage canister in North Vancouver, and climbed on top of the bin when the vehicle came to a stop at a busy intersection in downtown Vancouver. The cub was tranquilized and taken to be released in the wild.

Splitsville for 'gay penguin couple'

Buddy and Pedro, once one of Toronto's hottest "it" couples, have broken up amid pregnancy rumours and a budding relationship with what those on Team Pedro will undoubtedly call a femme fatale.

It only took Buddy 72 hours to bond with Farai, a female penguin he was matched with on Nov. 19,

after being separated from Pedro. Handlers at the Toronto Zoo split up the pair out of concern the same-sex bond would hamper breeding efforts.

Pedro has yet to get lucky, but zoo officials say it's not for a lack of trying.

"Pedro is very ready to go, per se, but his prospective mate Thandiwey is a



FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

► African Penguins swim in their enclosure at the Toronto Zoo yesterday.

little shy," Tom Mason, the zoo's curator of birds and invertebrates, said yesterday.

"She's not quite ready to go yet but they're beginners, they're just starting life as a pair."

The bromance was doomed from the start, said Mason.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Web sensation

► The story of the star-crossed birds took on a life of its own when the two African penguins, dubbed Toronto's "gay penguins," became an Internet sensation last month amid outrage over their pending separation.

BBC admits bear scenes shot in zoo

The BBC's popular Frozen Planet series promises to show viewers Arctic animals in their snowy, frozen habitats, but the broadcaster conceded yesterday that recent scenes of a polar bear with her cubs were actually shot in a European zoo, not the wild, as had been implied in the program.

The broadcaster insisted

that it had not misled audiences or tricked them into thinking that the scenes showing a female polar bear tenderly nursing her newborn cubs in an icy den in the dead of winter were filmed in the wild.

Its response came after The Daily Mirror accused it of "faking" the footage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police hunt for subway groper

Toronto police say a man who pretends to be sleeping is groping women on Toronto subway trains.

Investigators released a picture yesterday of a man believed to have assaulted at least two women on the subway.

Police say the alleged sexual assaults occurred

► The suspect



on two separate occasions on subway cars travelling on the Bloor-Danforth line.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trucker jailed for burning body

A former truck driver has been sentenced to six years for burning a woman's body after police say she suffocated as they celebrated their engagement with a meth and bondage sex party.

Mark Andrew Rice told police that he tied up Natasha Carpenter in 2009 in Barstow, California,

stuffed a gag in her mouth and covered it with tape.

He passed out after and woke up to find her dead.

Then, police said, he drove from California to Mississippi with the corpse in his 18-wheel truck and set fire to the truck, with the body inside.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No burka during citizenship oath

► It's a legal matter: Immigration minister ► Oath-takers must show entire face ► Rule takes effect immediately

Prospective Canadians are no longer allowed to wear veils while they utter the oath of citizenship, the federal government announced yesterday.

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney told a news conference in Montreal that new Canadians will have to remove any face-coverings, such as the Islamic niqab or burka, while they swear the oath of citizenship. The new rule, which requires oath-takers to show their entire face, takes effect immediately.

Kenney said it's not only a question of "deep principle" for someone to show their face while taking the oath in front of their fellow

Heated debate

► The location of the announcement was not without symbolism. Quebec has had heated debates in recent years over so-called "reasonable accommodation" — how much should Canada bend to accommodate newcomers.

► While in the rest of Canada, it's often raised by conservatives, in Quebec the issue is frequently raised by the left-leaning and nationalist Parti Quebecois.

citizens; it's also a matter of legal concern.

"I don't know how we

can verify that someone whose face is covered is actually taking the oath that the law requires of them," Kenney said.

"This is a public act of witness in front of your fellow citizens, in front of the law — and you should be willing to show who you are."

Kenney said he received complaints from citizens, MPs and citizenship judges to the effect that it's difficult to ensure individuals whose faces are covered are actually taking the oath.

He said those concerns prompted him to raise the issue during a recent meeting of citizenship judges in Ottawa. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

France. Election



► France's would-be presidential candidate Kenza Drider, who wears a face-covering veil, presents her manifesto at an improvised press conference in front of a Paris courthouse.

FRANCOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chain sticks to decision to pull ads

Lowe's is planning to stick by its decision to yank its ads from a reality TV show about American Muslims despite growing opposition the home improvement chain is facing.

Lowe's stopped running commercials during All-American Muslim after a conservative group emailed advertisers to ask them to stop advertising on the show. The group said the program, which follows the lives of Muslim families living in the Metro Detroit area, was "propaganda that riskily hides the Islamic agenda's clear and present danger." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Her presidential manifesto

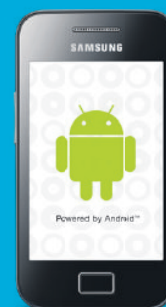
Kenza Drider rattled off 30 mostly left-leaning proposals — including capping salaries and devaluing the euro — as well as her main cause, repealing the ban on wearing face-concealing niqabs in public.

9,200^{On} Twitter, actor Kal Penn began directing people to a petition in support of the show. By yesterday afternoon, there were about 9,200 signatures.

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Women in charge of gift buying in the family: Poll

- ▶ 80 per cent of households polled say women do the holiday shopping
- ▶ 43 per cent of women shop online, up from 34 per cent last year



▶ Women shop at a Toys "R" Us in Atlanta, Ga. on Nov. 24.

Santa is a woman.

That's according to BMO's 2011 Holiday Spending Outlook.

BMO says 80 per cent of households polled said the female head of family will do the majority of holiday shopping, and this year, more and more will do it online.

BMO's annual survey revealed a substantial increase in the number of women using the Internet to shop for gifts. The figure jumped to 43 per cent from 34 per cent last year. At 49 per cent, men are still somewhat more inclined than women to shop online — but the gap is narrowing.

The survey polled 1,508 Canadians and is considered accurate within plus or minus 2.5 per cent 19 times out of 20.

"There are a number of factors behind the increase in online shopping among Canadian women," said Su

McVey, vice-president of BMO Bank of Montreal.

"The ability to quickly and easily research products and compare prices and even arrange for delivery at the click of a mouse or the touch of a key pad makes it a remarkably convenient approach for busy, budget-conscious and multi-tasking women," McVey said.

McVey noted that advances in technology such as Wi-Fi, smartphones and e-readers have helped spur this growth. "People of all ages are becoming much more comfortable with the technology and with the security behind online shopping," said McVey.

Regionally, married people polled in Atlantic Canada were more likely to say the female head of household does the majority of shopping — 87 per cent.

Online shoppers who don't want to pay priority shipping fees should make

Airline sued for charging the disabled





Disabled travellers who had to pay extra for seats on Air Canada could be in line for compensation as part of a class-action lawsuit authorized in Quebec.

A judge has approved a suit against Air Canada on

behalf of disabled Canadians who had to pay extra for seats over a three-year period from Dec. 5, 2005 to Dec. 5, 2008.

Quebec City law firm BGA Barristers & Solicitors LLP made the announce-

Market moment

TSX	Dollar
	
- 126.86 (11,907.89)	- 0.71¢ (97.48¢ US)
Oil	Natural gas
	
- \$1.64 US (\$97.77 US)	\$3.254 US (- 6.3¢ US)
	Gold
	\$1,668.20 US (- \$48.6 US)

their online purchases by or before Dec. 15, BMO said.

That's the date when most retailers, especially those offering free delivery, require your order if you want a guarantee that Santa's packages will arrive by Dec. 24.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada can prosper amid debt: Carney

Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney says the advanced economies of the world are facing a massive challenge with debt, but Canada may be in a position to take advantage.

Speaking to a business group in Toronto, the central banker warned yesterday that a historic era of deleveraging — paying off debt — is being forced upon European countries and the U.S. The task is so large that Carney compares it to what occurred during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

"As a result of deleveraging, the global economy risks entering a prolonged period of deficient demand," Carney said. "If mis-handled, it could lead to debt deflation and disorderly defaults, potentially triggering large transfers of wealth and social unrest."

Carney said that Canada's relative virtue throughout this era of deleveraging puts the country in a "privileged position."

Carney added Canadian companies in particular must seize the moment, before it disappears.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRTC targets Bell Mobility

The CRTC is putting Bell Mobility in the penalty box for securing exclusive rights to hockey and football content for mobile devices. Bell Mobility gained an unfair advantage after signing deals with the NHL and NFL, the CRTC ruled yesterday. The decision followed a complaint from Telus Communications.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

\$7M A policy that would exempt disabled passengers with a medical certificate from having to purchase an additional seat is estimated to cost Air Canada about \$7 million.

GETTING ALL WRAPPED UP IN THE HOLIDAYS

SHE SAYS ...

JESSICA NAPIER
METRO



For couples who intend to spend the holidays together, 'tis the season for family feuds and hurt feelings. December is arguably the busiest time of the year, so when you move from being an "I" to a "we," this already-overscheduled month becomes even more complicated. With emotions running high, there can be all sorts of issues attached to deciding where and with whom to spend your yuletide time.

Do we commit to one set of parents? Divide our time between each other's family get-togethers? Try blending our families into one big (and potentially disastrous) celebration? Or do we split up and spend the holidays apart?

With all of the parental pressures and guilt-tripping the season brings, sometimes the most desirable course of action is to ditch everyone and spend December 25th alone together, eating Chinese food and watching a movie.

Married couples and those in long-term relationships can easily burn themselves out trying to fulfil calendars full of family commitments. Forget your holiday wish list, all you really want for Christmas is some extra time, or perhaps a couple of clones.

The unfortunate reality for adult children is that you will never really be able to please the numerous sets of parents, step-parents, in-laws and extended family members. In striving to meet everyone's expectations you'll stress yourself out and turn into

"...the turkey will never taste quite the same, and this other family's drunken uncle will seem terribly racist — on the other hand, your sloshed-by-noon-uncle is 'endearing.'"

an argumentative and unpleasant grinch.

But, hey, isn't that what the holidays are all about?

Deciding how you'll celebrate the season will ultimately depend on a variety of factors — religious beliefs, geography, work commitments, money — but if you want to spend the holidays with your significant other, you'll have to make some compromises.

It's more than likely that at some point in your life you'll have to spend the holidays with a family that isn't your own. Yes, unfamiliar familial surroundings can be difficult: the turkey will never taste quite the same, and this other family's drunken uncle will seem terribly racist — on the other hand, your sloshed-by-noon-uncle is "endearing." They'll want to watch A Christmas Story even though you ALWAYS watch It's a Wonderful Life, and you'll be irrationally devastated.

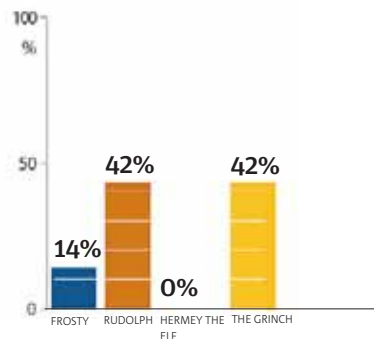
Since every family has their own unique festive customs, you'll have to adjust your own expectations if you want to get through the holidays without weeping into your eggnog. But in letting go of some of your established traditions, you'll give yourself the opportunity to start making some new ones. And remember, it's actually a nice thing when too many people want to spend time with you.

Read more of Jessica Napier's columns at metronews.ca/shesays



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and take the quick poll

Who would win in a holiday cartoon showdown?



Daily Zoom



Oh, hello, gecko — nice to meet you

New creature found in Mekong every 2 days!

This psychedelic gecko is one of the latest species discovered on Hon Khoai island, Mau province, in southern Vietnam.

The gecko is among 208 new species described last year by scientists in the Mekong River region of Southeast Asia, according to the WWF.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mekong River

The region spans Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the southwestern Chinese province of Yunnan. The report reveals an average of one new species discovered every two days.

28 reptiles were newly discovered in 2010, including an all-female lizard in Vietnam that reproduces via cloning.

Despite findings many species are threatened

The Mekong's wildlife population is under threat from rapid, unsustainable development and climate change. One tragic indicator of the decline of biodiversity is the recent extinction of the Javan rhino in Vietnam, which was recently confirmed by WWF.

● METRO

"Mekong governments have to stop thinking about biodiversity protection as a cost and recognize it as an investment to ensure long-term stability."

STUART CHAPMAN, CONSERVATION DIRECTOR OF WWF GREATER MEKONG

Local tweets



► **@pungergirl:** @tompetty I've smoke many a joint listening to your music. Can't wait to do it in person next year in #Halifax!

► **@JadedBree:** Hmmm.... St. John's in June to see Tom Petty or do I wait for the date to be announced in Halifax??

► **@aldelory:** Tom Petty in Halifax? Eat your heart out. Kids Christmas concert is the HOTTEST ticket in town. Must line up at least 1-hour early.

► **@HaliMike:** I'd like to congratulate Halifax on the Washmill lake rd. you have finally done something right, sidewalks, bike lanes and double lanes too

► **@followericgould:** So windy on the #Halifax harbor, I just spit half a mile!!

► **@StewartLegere:** Home Internet not working, so it's a fallish coffice afternoon for me at steveos. I love #halifax

► **@nicolely1:** Someone should come to cole Harbour high now & bring me a coffee. Double double please.

2

scene

Box office



Meryl Streep may be considered one of the finest actresses around, yet she says she believed her career was over 20 years ago. Streep, now 62, tells *Vogue* magazine she was offered three different roles to play a witch after turning 40. She believed it meant women in her age group were "grotesque on some level." Streep graces the January cover of *Vogue* magazine for the first time.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Clooney's *Descendants* named best film by LA critics; Fassbender wins best-actor prize

Bird flies into action

► Director Brad Bird takes the leap from family films into the explosive world of live-action entertainment with *Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol* ► How he adapted his technique



STEVE GOW
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Brad Bird was not the most obvious candidate to take over the reins of the Tom Cruise multimillion-dollar *Mission: Impossible* film franchise.

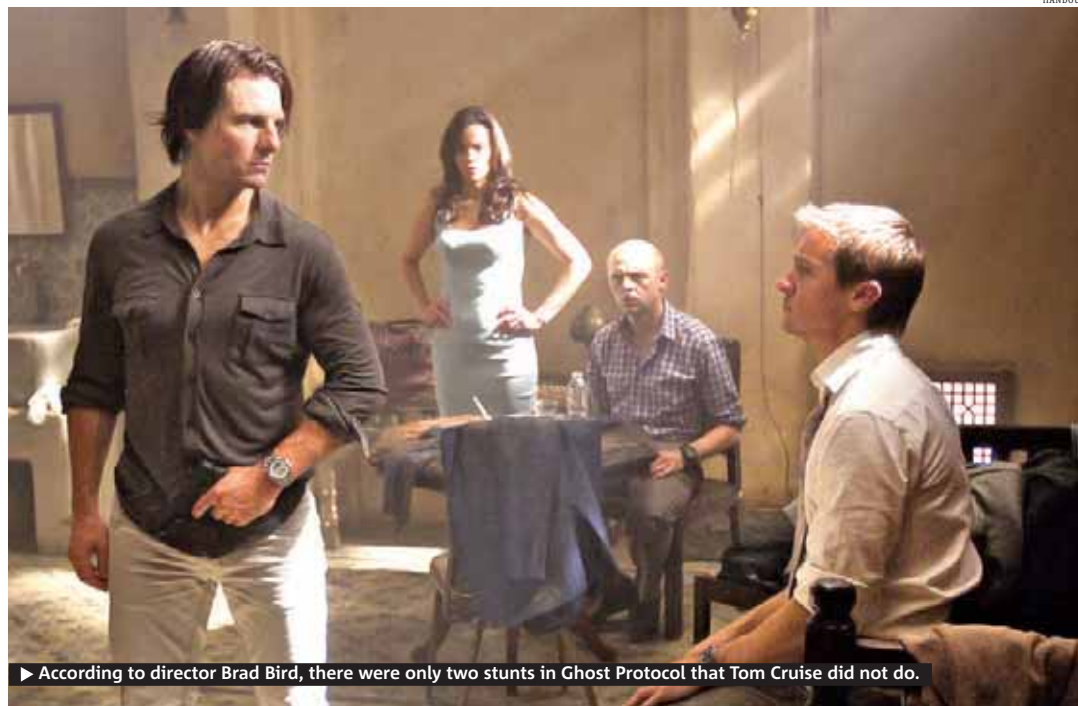
While the filmmaker's Oscar-winning background stands on its own, it is mostly comprised of not only animated entertainment but specifically family-oriented favourites like *Ratatouille* and *The Incredibles*.

Now with *Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol* about to hit IMAX theatres this Friday (it opens on regular theatres next Wednesday), Brad Bird discussed leaping from kiddy cinema to explosive live-action entertainment.

What was the biggest challenge of going from choreographing animation to live-action?

If I had gone from hand-held animation, which my first film, *The Iron Giant*, was to live-action, it would've been a bigger leap but the last two films I did, *The Incredibles* and *Ratatouille*, were dimensional; there was CGI so you could move the camera through space and you could light it like you would any film so I got very comfortable with that.

So it actually felt fairly



► According to director Brad Bird, there were only two stunts in *Ghost Protocol* that Tom Cruise did not do.

natural to move to real people and things.

Certainly *The Incredibles* had its share of action too. What do you love about spy films?

They're sleek and they're exotic and fast and kind of explosive. They can go from very quiet suspense to all hell breaking loose just like that. This movie is definitely in that realm and that's one of the reasons that I wanted to do it.

I understand that Tom Cruise did all of his own stunts in this — true?

There's only two that he didn't do and in both of them the stuntman got hurt so he was very wise in not doing those two. But all of the ones on the Burj Khalifa (the tallest building in the world) where you see him climbing around, that's him. People are going to say, 'oh, that can't be him' but it's him.

Brad Bird talks *Mission: Impossible*

► Bird on tourists posting photos of Tom Cruise hanging from the side of Dubai's Burj Khalifa during filming:

"At first we were mad because the very first stuff (we shot went) online and we were like 'We can't show this stuff before the movie comes out'. But then we thought this proves that he's there, he's not a special effect."

► Bird on *Ghost Protocol* being the biggest of the *Mission: Impossible* franchise:

"I don't think it's the most expensive but it is the biggest. We had to be very clever with how we did things but it is the biggest and it's enormous — it was a challenge to do absolutely."

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From a writer of "The Office"...

Originals

*An original webseries
completely lacking any originality*



In today's episode... "The Situation"

As the cast gets a chance to strut their stuff New Jersey style, Jason attempts to finally connect with Carina. The question is will there be sparks or a nasty shock?

New episodes post every Tuesday and Thursday. Watch at www.facebook.com/OriginalsTheSeries



DVD Releases

**Rise of the Planet of the Apes****Genre:** Action**Director:** Rupert Wyatt**Stars:** James Franco, Andy Serkis, Freido Pinto

●●●●

The world needs another Planet of the Apes movie like a banana peel. After five original films, two TV spin-offs and Tim Burton's failed 2001 "reimagining," the franchise has fleas. Yet Rise of the Planet of the Apes defies expectations (and fears), and two words explain why: Andy Serkis. The British magician behind the digital sorcery of Gollum and King Kong gives his finest perform-

ance yet as Caesar, the brainy chimp who leads a primate revolution against enslaving humans. Serkis commands the screen, combining his malleable features with the motion-capture technology he excels at. His Caesar conveys more emotion than any of the human characters. Director Rupert Wyatt's version, scripted by Rick Jaffa and Amanda Silver (who previously teamed for The Relic), pays tribute to the original series without being bound by it. Not surprisingly, that story's object lesson about how slavery is all in the eye of the beholder doesn't resonate as strongly now. ● **PETER HOWELL**

Running with rodents

► Jason Lee talks about the surreal experience of talking to stuffed animals and bean bags for the new Alvin and the Chipmunks film



Jason Lee was more than happy to reprise his role as Dave Seville, the human minder and manager to a furry pop trio in Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked. But the third film in the franchise provided some new challenges for the actor — namely filming on a Carnival cruise ship. "I mean, we were only there for a week, but my idea of a getaway is not being on a cruise ship with thousands of people, personally," Lee says. "You eat all day and all night, and you're out at sea. It's quite surreal, the cruise thing."

While Lee admits the process has gotten easier



► Jason Lee reprises his role as chipmunk manager Dave Seville in Chipwrecked.

with the first two Chipmunks films under his belt, there's a surreality to working with virtual characters that never really goes away.

"It's always a bit surreal when you're looking at pieces of tape and stuffed animals and tan beanbags," he says, adding that more

Jason Lee's**television roots**

► While former professional skateboarder Jason Lee got his start as an actor in films — mostly for Kevin Smith — it was his TV work that made him a star, especially on the four-year run of My Name is Earl.

dramatic scenes — like an emotional reunion with his furry kids — can be especially jarring. "Theodore, I miss you!" And it's a beanbag in your hand. It's kind of strange."

But despite the challenges of making a movie with animated chipmunks, Lee is thrilled to have some entries on his resumé for his children to enjoy.

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Kutcher's resolutions are set

Ashton Kutcher is looking to get a jump on his New Year's resolutions, and given the year he's had it's not such a surprise.

"I'm gonna do my resolution in December this year," he says in a Warner Bros. Studio interview.

"I'm resolving for December so that when I come to January, and everybody else is having to go through the grind, I'm already ahead of it, I've already done it. It's like taking the PSATs. I'm just trying to stay ahead of the curve. There is a curve."

● METRO



► Ashton Kutcher

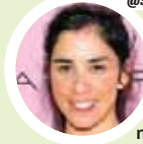
Celebrity tweets



Nearly the end of another gruelling week of talking about myself. It's a good job that I'm so interesting...



@JohnCleese



@SarahKSilverman

My dog has to think the elevator's a time machine, right? There's no other possible explanation.



@russellcrowe

90 sweaty minutes in the gym. Some days you love it, some you hate it. Today was all love.

@juliebenz



whenever someone says "we're only giving gifts to the kids this holiday season" my inner child screams "NO! I want presents too!!"



Theft-filled weekend for Lindsay Lohan

Lindsay Lohan had a drama-filled weekend, and not just because of her leaked Playboy spread.

While partying in Hawaii, the troubled starlet reportedly had her purse stolen, according to TMZ.

The \$5,000 Chanel handbag, which was snatched from a parked car, was said to contain \$10,000 in cash.

The purse was later returned, minus the cash. Lohan was reportedly fretting another probation violation, as her passport and court documents allowing her to travel were also in the purse, but were returned safely.

Which leads us to a very pressing, unrelated question: Do drug dealers accept traveller's checks?

● METRO



Lindsay Lohan

K-Fed's 'Excess Baggage'

Kevin Federline was hospitalized in Australia recently while filming *Excess Baggage*, a weight-loss reality TV show, according to E! Online.

"Our first shoot was in November in the Kimberley region in Outback, Western Australia, widely regarded as one of the most remote and hostile parts of the country," a spokesman for the show says.

"During the shoot, under advice from the show's medic, Kevin was taken to hospital as he was showing signs of heat stress."

The former back-up dancer is said to be doing fine and already back for more filming in the area.

● METRO

Hulk Hogan is not a homosexual, OK?

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



Hulk Hogan, who filed a defamation suit against ex-wife Linda Bollea, says he's just trying to defend his reputation.

"After the four-year crazy divorce I thought I'd heard everything I could hear in

the courtroom," the wrestling star tells *Us Weekly*.

"Then all of a sudden she says I abused her, that I was violent. She told everybody that I was a homosexual."

Hogan adds that his real problem with Bollea's accusations is that they aren't accurate.

"If any of that was true, I would admit it, and (if) I was a homosexual I would embrace it," he says.

"If you're going to say I'm something that I'm not

to try to ruin my career and my livelihood, I have to answer her back."

Look, Linda. Just because at one point in his life, your ex-husband loved Spandex, tan skin, Fu Manchu, rippling muscles, had a huge boa scarf collection, ripped his shirt off at the drop of a hat and pinned sweaty men to the ground for a living, does not mean he was in the closet while you were married. If it were someone else's husband, however, I'd be a tad worried.



► Hulk Hogan

ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

3 life

Trends

Twenty-two-year-old Russian Kristina Rei thought her 'thin' lips made her unpretty, so she decided to spend \$5,000 (around 100 injections) in order to have the pillow lips of cartoon character Jessica Rabbit. The nail technician is admitting she, like a growing number of women, has an addiction to it. **METRO**



Born smaller than soda cans, tiniest babies are growing up healthy

Babies are skeptics

► New study shows that even infants can detect when you're acting shady ► They'll start to tune you out ► So remember: just because they're little, doesn't mean they aren't on to you



CELIA MILNE
LIFE@METRONews.ca

You can't trick babies. They'll distrust you.

Researchers in psychology at Concordia University in Montreal have found that infants just over a year old can already get a bead on who is reliable and who is unreliable. The babies will quickly start ignoring cues from those who are unreliable.

"Even babies detect when someone's behaviour is not conventional," says Diane Poulin-Dubois, a professor of psychology at Concordia University. "It seems that they then turn off the 'learning switch' that typically makes them learn from that person."

Poulin-Dubois and colleagues conducted a study



► Don't confuse their cuteness — babies can tell when your actions don't add up.

Learning

Babies learn from older humans. But would they copy a robot?

► **Robots** A team of researchers from the University of Washington found babies will imitate a robot if they have previously seen the robot playing with someone. Turns out, it's more important to babies that robots are sociable than that they look human.

with 60 babies between 13 and 16 months of age.

The wee ones were divided into two groups — those with a reliable adult and those with an unreliable adult — and shown tasks they could mimic.

In the first task, testers looked inside a container and expressed excitement and delight before handing the container to the

baby.

In the reliable group, there was a toy inside.

In the unreliable group, the container was empty.

This was repeated several times over the course of the study.

For the second task, the same adult showed the babies a touch-on light.

The tester placed it on a desk and switched it on by

leaning forward and using the forehead.

This was repeated three times before passing the light to the infant.

Infants who had been tricked in the first experiment were far less likely to imitate the adult.

Over two attempts, 34 per cent of infants in the unreliable condition mimicked the adult, versus 61

per cent of infants in the reliable condition.

"Babies are setting down the groundwork for a lifelong skill — remaining vigilant about who is an expert and who is not," says Poulin-Dubois of the study.

The study was published in the journal *Infant Behaviour and Development*.



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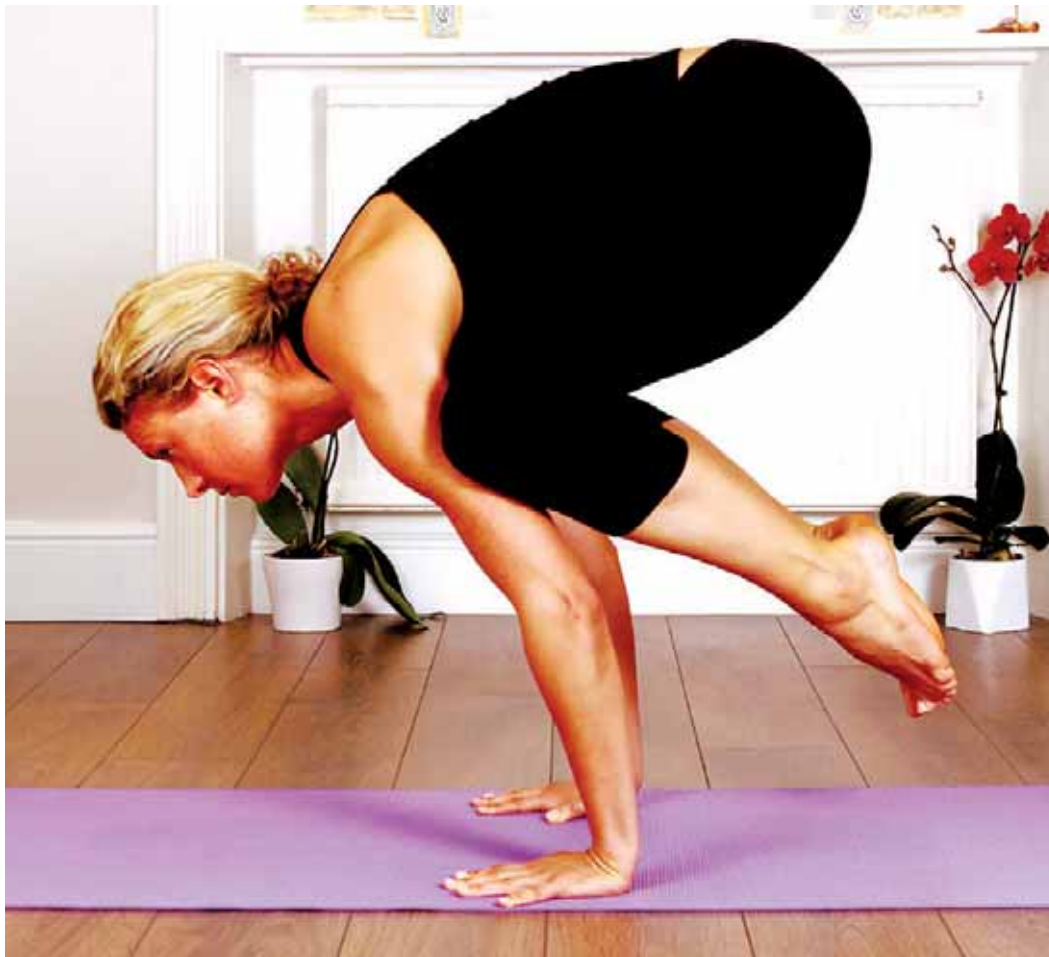
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Yoga pose.

Bakasana: crane pose



Squat down with your inner feet a few inches apart keeping your heels on the floor. Separate your knees wider than your hips and lean the torso forward, between the inner thighs.

Stretch your arms forward then bend your elbows; place your hands on the floor and the backs of the upper arms

against the shins.

Snuggle your inner thighs against the sides of your torso and the shins into your armpits and slide the upper arms down as low onto the shine as possible. Lift up onto the balls of your feet and learn forward even more, taking the weight of the torso

onto the backs of the upper arms.

Press your hands against the back torso, pushing the back up toward the ceiling as you press the backs of the upper arms down. Clasp the hands and press the arms down on the support as you lift the thighs toward the ceiling. If

you want to go further, squeeze the legs against the arms press the inner hands firmly to the floor and on an inhale, straighten the elbows. Keep the head in a neutral position with your eyes looking to the floor.

● **STEPHANIE KNUTSSON**, AT BODYISM YOGA WWW.BODYISM.COM

Real world applications

▶ Video game helps research into Alzheimer's, diabetes and cancer

A team of McGill University researchers has come up with a way to make playing video games an entirely productive pursuit.

Computer scientist Jerome Waldispühl, along with collaborator Mathieu Blanchette, developed a video game similar to the popular puzzle game Tetris — except there's more to it than just stacking blocks.

The game, called Phylo, involves arranging sequences of coloured shapes that represent hu-

man DNA.

By analyzing the DNA sequences, scientists are able to gain new insight into the genetic basis of diseases like Alzheimer's, diabetes and cancer.

"Originally, I think a lot of people came because they are interested in participating in something that contributes to science," Waldispühl said in an interview. "But the goal is really to expand that to casual players."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Chocolate Peanut Butter Covered Apples



Preparation:

1 In a small saucepan over medium-low, heat cream and peanut butter until bubbling. Remove pan from heat and add chocolate bits. Stir until completely smooth. Set aside to cool for 10 minutes.

2 From bottom, push a pop stick up into core of each apple. The stick should go deep enough to be sturdy, but leave enough exposed to serve as a handle.

3 Line a baking sheet with waxed paper. Place peanuts in bowls, if using.

4 One at a time, using sticks as handles, dip apples in chocolate mixture. Use a spoon to scoop up extra chocolate and pour over apples to help coat sides. Allow extra chocolate to drip back into pan. Dip coated apples into nuts. Stand apples, stick in air, on lined baking sheet. Refrigerate until firm.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ingredients:

- 90 ml (3 oz) heavy cream
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) creamy peanut butter
- 175 g (6 oz) bittersweet chocolate bits
- 4 apples (any variety)
- 4 wooden pop sticks
- Chopped salted peanuts (optional)

Laura's Café offers Russian flavours to Haligonians

► Served are favourites such as Russian Crepes, Borscht, Khinkali and more

LUNCH RUSH

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Entering Laura's to the sound of Russian radio and Russian customers, puts one in the mood for Russian food.

Khinkali (\$7.99 for five) are large, tasty dumplings stuffed with herbed ground beef and lamb, with a light tomato sauce.

Classic Russian Crepes (\$9.99 for three) are presented, unlike others, tightly rolled up and served with sour cream. There are three versions.



► Borscht (\$3.99, small).

► Laura's Café

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Co-worker lunch: Yes

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Rating: 3.5 out of 5

The potato and mushroom have a mild but pleasing flavour.

The Lula Kebab (\$11.99) is made of ground lamb with herbs. It is nicely presented with rice and thankfully — considering

our carb-heavy lunch — a choice of salad. The fresh flavours of the colourful Greek salad liven up the meat and rice.

I'm no fan of Borscht (\$3.99, small), but this one, described as Classic

Russian, is lovely with its delicate mix of beets, cabbage, onions, potatoes and tomatoes, served with sour cream and bread.

This Russian winter warmth should suit Halifax well.

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Top 5 most shoplifted items of the holiday season

The time of year sees plenty of merchandise fly off the shelves, whether it's paid for or not.

Scores of shoppers will pass through the doors of countless retailers, but one in 11 of them will walk out for something they swiped with a five-finger discount, according to the National Association of Shoplifting Prevention in the U.S.

Ad Week spoke to security professionals who named some of the top items for shoplifters.

1. Filet mignon: Luxury meat theft is up by 21 per cent, making grocery stores and markets the most common setting for shoplifting.

2. Jameson: Shockingly, people who love to steal also



▶ Nothing beats the thrill of stuffing cold, raw meat down your pants.

love to drink. Pricey liquor makes up about 2.9 per cent of stolen merchandise.

3. Electric tools: Shoplifters, though a sneaky breed, are also quite handy. DIY items are the third most popular category for thieves — think electric toothbrushes and power tools.

4. iPhone4: No surprise here — digital gadgets, in general, fly right off the shelves and right into pockets. Apple products are especially popular among shoplifters.

5. Gillette Mach 4 Razor blades Shoplifters have discerning taste when it comes to a smooth, close shave.

Not just any razor blade will do.

● METRO NEW YORK

Revel in small pleasures

ON MONEY

ALISON GRIFFITHS
MONEY@METRONOVS.CA



Taking a break, as I've just done for the past two weeks, is one of the hardest things about being a freelance writer and broadcaster. Anyone who is self-employed will nod in agreement.

For one thing, it's hard to turn down work — you don't know when the next job will come along or if a regular gig suddenly disappears.

The problem with never turning down work is that you rarely stop to smell the roses. While many of us in this situation love what we do, work should give us the opportunity to enjoy our lives.

Whether it's roses that

excite you, sports, crafts or travel, our other interests are what feed our souls and keep us balanced in troubled times.

Recently, I've been stewing over the way a publication I've worked with for years has treated me. I wanted to rage and complain. Instead, I went for a run in the woods with my dogs and gloried in their enthusiasm. I'm still upset but my non-work interests helped ameliorate the blow.

After earning your paycheck, if you can do something that makes you happy or even just content, then the work has been worthwhile.

While I was off I took a friend to a rehab session after his knee replacement. I saved him a couple of hours travel time and had a nice visit. And I had a long phone conversation with another old friend whose uncle had recently died and she was trying to sort out



▶ Alison's money rule: Earning money is important but not if you don't enjoy life outside work.

his estate. The best part was enjoying the moment — seizing it in fact.

I also tried to revel in life's mundane routines, which often pass in a blur but can actually be pleasurable if you focus on them.

I cleared out some clutter, listened to a neighbour complain about his health problems, raked some leaves and hung up bungee cords that were in a tangled pile. Though I'm sorry to say the enjoyable routine

magic didn't work with vacuuming.

It is the season of resolutions but rather than come up with things you should do or do better, direct your thoughts to your work and non-work life. Make the most out of each as best you can and feel good about the small things.

ALISON GRIFFITHS IS THE AUTHOR OF THE UPCOMING BOOK COUNT ON YOURSELF: TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY. REACH HER AT ALISONGRIFFITHS.CA OR GRIFFITHS.ALISON@GMAIL.COM.

THE DRUNK-DRIVING ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

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As a hostess, how do I deal with drinking and driving for my guests at my Christmas party?

Nervous hostess

Dear Nervous Hostess,

Good on you for asking the important question! I don't need to tell readers the importance of this subject. I personally think it is just as delicate a subject no matter who this concerns. As a butler I have had to deal with this on several occasions. Firstly, try to be prepared ahead of time. Suggest a designated driver at your event (this person can drive numerous guests home as needed) and/or have some cash on hand to



▶ This guy is doing the right thing. There's a drink in his hand, so therefore the keys should not be.

send someone home by taxi if required. After doing some research, the auto insurance website progressive.com had some great suggestions:

1. If the person is a close friend, try to use a soft, calm approach at first. Suggest that he's had too much to drink and it would be better to let someone else drive or to take a cab.

2. Be calm.

3. Try to make it sound like you are doing them a favour.

4. If the person is somebody you don't know well, speak to his friends and have them make an at-

tempt to persuade him to hand over the keys. Usually, he will listen.

5. If the person is a good friend, spouse or significant other, tell him that if he insists on driving, you are not going with him. Tell him that you will call someone else for a ride, take a cab or walk.

6. Locate the person's keys while he is preoccupied and take them away.

Most likely, he will think he's lost his keys and will be forced to find another mode of transportation.

HAVE A QUESTION? EMAIL CHARLES AT ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONOVS.CA.

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PREVIEW
2012
NEW-VEHICLE GUIDE

2012 Passat

VW HOT IN 2012

Volkswagen has aspirations of big sales gains in North America and to do that means more product, better product and, especially in the case of the new *Passat*, product that's perceived as good value.

Following a one-year absence, this mid-size four-door returns for 2012 with a base sticker price of about \$23,500 on its window, which is about \$9,400 less than the 2010 version. The new *Passat* is nine centimetres longer overall and the distance between the front and rear wheels has been stretched by about the same amount. The new size is in line with models belonging to the rest of the mid-size segment.

The *Passat*'s interior styling, inspired by Volkswagen's new-look *Touareg* sport ute, is clean, uncluttered and devoid of the trendy dashboard swoops and swirls. For the 2012 model year, VW has dropped the previously standard 200-horsepower 2.0-litre four-cylinder turbocharged powerplant for a less-expensive non-turbo 170-horsepower 2.5-litre five-cylinder. A 280-horsepower 3.6-litre V6 is optional, as is Volkswagen's hybrid-challenging 140-horsepower 2.0-liter turbo-diesel that will give the *Passat* a claimed rating of 6.8 l/100 km on the highway (4.4 in the city). *Passat*'s starting-point Trendline model is equipped with automatic climate control, cruise control, outside temperature display and Bluetooth short-range wireless connectivity.

Also back after a year off is the *Beetle*, but this time with sharper styling, a roomier and up-to-date interior and more power. Oh, and the name has been shortened to just plain *Beetle*, if you please. Gone is the New *Beetle*'s oval, almost cartoonish appearance, replaced by a longer hood and flatter roofline that ends in a rounded hatchway flanked by a set of prominent taillights. The *Beetle* is wider by more than three inches and has been lengthened by half a foot. Additionally, the distance between the front and rear wheels has been increased to



2012 Beetle

Base prices (incl. destination)

CC: Mid-sized sedan; \$34,700

Eos: Compact convertible; \$40,400

Golf: Compact hatchback; \$21,400; \$30,800 (GTI)

Jetta: Compact sedan/wagon; \$17,200 (sedan)

Passat: Mid-sized sedan; \$25,300

Routan: Minivan; \$30,150

Tiguan: Compact SUV; \$30,000

Touareg: Mid-size SUV; \$50,500

create some much-needed rear-seat legroom plus a more generous stowage area. Inside, the more contemporary-looking cabin features easy-to-read dials and massive air vents that flank a carbon-fibre-look dashboard.

The base model arrives with a 170-horsepower 2.5-litre five-cylinder that pretty much carries over from the old New *Beetle*. Optional is the popular 140-horsepower 2.0-litre turbo-diesel (TDI). The top-rung and most performance-focused *Beetle* gets it done with a 200-horsepower 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder. It's also the only model to include a standard rear spoiler. Entry-level *Beetles* showcase numerous power-operated accessories plus air conditioning, cloth-covered seats and an eight-speaker stereo.

Besting the turbo *Beetle*'s performance is the new two-door *Golf R* model with its 256-horsepower version of the GTI's familiar 2.0-litre turbo-



2012 Golf R



2012 Tiguan

charged four-cylinder engine, only available with a six-speed manual transmission and only available with all-wheel-drive to better help put the grunt to the road.

Elsewhere, the *Tiger-Iguana* (*Tiguan*) has a little plastic surgery and now looks a bit like the larger *Touareg*. The horizontal grille splits bi-xenon (high and low beam) headlights and U-shaped LED (light emitting diode) on top-end models, while the rear taillights get some more subtle tweaks.

This guide has a rule book... The information in this guide is accurate to the best of our ability and knowledge at the time it was written. We say this because manufacturers are completely entitled to make changes after this writing and often do. Therefore, you can expect something to have changed from the time of writing to the time you've read it. Most importantly, some manufacturers haven't finalized their lineups and all the options, etc., as of this writing, which means that we might include carryover pricing, features, etc., in some cases, and indicate it as such.

Base price: Prices reflect the entry-level model in a given lineup. That is to say the price provided is the starting point. In most cases, prices have been provided by the manufacturer and then rounded up or down to the nearest \$100 to reflect small changes that inevitably occur from time to time. It's also because the prices provided here are intended as a gauge of affordability and are not today's sale price, so do not quote these prices to your dealer. Prices do not include the tax you'll pay, although most include the delivery charges (and are indicated as such where possible) which run from about \$1,300-\$1,600 (some are as high as \$2,200). Where pricing is not yet available, we've taken our best guess and added "(est.)" to the number.



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HALIFAX MOOSEHEADS
GENERAL MANAGER CAM
RUSSELL ON NATHAN
MACKINNON.

Drouin doesn't regret late arrival

► Second-overall pick could make QMJHL debut tonight at Metro Centre if groin injury doesn't keep him out



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

Jonathan Drouin knows his training camp no-show did little to endear him to the Halifax Mooseheads fan-base.

But the 16-year-old left-winger says his unexpected decision to spend the first three months of the season playing at the midget AAA level was the best thing for everyone involved, and hopes all will be forgiven when he finally throws on his No. 27 jersey.

"I'm here now so it's not really a difference for them, but for me, I'm physically more ready than I was at the start of the year," Drouin said. "It's better for them and it's better for me."

Drouin, who became the second-highest draft pick in Mooseheads history when he went No. 2 overall this past June, was easily the most prolific scorer at the Quebec midget AAA level with the Lac St-Louis Lions, piling up 53 points in just 22 games.

Listed at five foot nine and 153 pounds on draft day, Drouin said he's now an inch taller and 22 pounds heavier after spending the past half a year doing extra individual workouts.

"I don't regret playing midget AAA the first half at all," he said. "I worked

"He's a guy who is really intelligent with the puck, tons of skills, he's shifty. ... I don't know, he'll probably put up a lot of points in this league already. For sure he can play right away."

MOOSEHEADS FORWARD MATTHEW BOUDREAU, WHO PLAYED SUMMER HOCKEY WITH JONATHAN DROUIN IN MONTREAL.

really hard off the ice, more than the team did, and I got bigger, stronger and I'm more ready for major junior right now."

Drouin is a gifted offensive player who models his game after Claude Giroux and Pavel Datsyuk. He hopes to "adjust pretty quick" but conceded it will likely take some time before he's putting up the type of numbers he's used to in midget AAA.

The Mooseheads made him feel comfortable right away. When he arrived, a No. 27 jersey was waiting at his locker in the dressing room after veteran Brad Cuzner traded it in for No. 53.

Drouin said he has worn No. 27 his whole life.

"It's a great move and I really appreciate it and thank them," he said.

Although the Mooseheads had the day off yes-



► Jonathan Drouin, left, at the QMJHL draft with Mooseheads head coach Dominique Ducharme, centre, and general manager Cam Russell.

terday, Drouin skated with fellow 16-year-old Nathan MacKinnon. Both players are nursing minor ailments — Drouin a groin in-

jury and MacKinnon a shoulder problem — and will be game-day decisions when the Mooseheads host the Bathurst Titan at the

Metro Centre at 7 p.m. tonight.

"I'm waiting for the moment and I'm excited," Drouin said.

Duffy would be 'happy' if traded to contender



► P.E.I. Rocket forward Ben Duffy.

Ben Duffy knows his time with the P.E.I. Rocket is likely winding down.

As the 19-year-old forward from Lower Sackville continues to light up the QMJHL with the last-place Rocket — his team for the past three-and-a-half seasons — trade rumours are swirling.

"Right now I'm doing what I can to help this team every day, to work toward being a better team," said Duffy, who is tied for eighth in league

"I worked hard in the summer to be ready for the season and I think that's paying off. I'm a lot more confident in my fourth year in the league."

P.E.I. ROCKET FORWARD BEN DUFFY

scoring with 18 goals among 48 points in 34 games.

"Obviously trades come in your head, rumours you hear from other people, but if it happens where I can go to a team that's going to be a contender, I'll be very happy for that."

P.E.I. head coach Gordie Dwyer said recently the Rocket will "listen to all offers" for Duffy, and Duffy said he's heard all kinds of possibilities, including rumours he could be dealt to his hometown Halifax Mooseheads.

"I've heard that either

for the second half of this year or next year as a 20, they might be interested," Duffy said. "That'd be kind of cool — to finish my Q career with the Mooseheads."

The trade period opens at 12 a.m. on Monday morning and runs until Jan. 7 at noon.

"Whatever happens, it'll be for the best, and I'll work my hardest for whichever team I end up with," Duffy said.

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Orlando holds out hope on Howard

The relationship between Dwight Howard and the Orlando Magic appears to be improving — at least a bit.

Magic chief executive officer Alex Martins said he sat down with the all-star centre yesterday morning, a day after Howard said he hadn't spoken to general manager Otis Smith since

asking the team to be traded.

Martins said he remains confident things still can be done to convince Howard that Orlando can build a championship team.

"We have to continue to do what's right for this organization to win a cham-

pionship and the first piece of that is keeping Dwight," Martins said at the team's annual media day. "And we're doing everything we can to ensure that we do that."

Then, after speaking at length for two straight days about all that was wrong with management,

Howard said that the door remains open for him to re-sign.

"As of a right now, I have on a Magic uniform. ... If it's meant for me to stay here, then I'll stay," Howard said. "I love this city and there's no place I'd rather be than Orlando." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



► DeMar DeRozan poses for photos yesterday.

Raps hope young legs provide edge

► Youthful squad could capitalize on short, condensed season

If the shortened NBA season is going to be a sprint, the Toronto Raptors believe they at least have the young legs to keep up.

The Raptors held their traditional media day yesterday at Air Canada Centre ahead of what will be a far from traditional season, with 66 games crammed into four months on the heels of the NBA lockout.

The first month alone features a stretch of three games in three nights — a gutbusting feat to be sure, and one that could take a serious toll on older teams.

"Hopefully we catch some of the older teams on the back-to-backs, or the back-to-back-to-backs," said Raptors swingman DeMar DeRozan. "I think we should take heed of that. We've got young legs and hopefully we'll be able to

bounce back faster than other teams and we should use that to our advantage."

To bolster his solid young nucleus of DeRozan, Ed Davis and Amir Johnson, Raptors general manager Bryan Colangelo beefed up the veteran presence, signing Toronto native Jamaal Magloire, Anthony Carter and Rasual Butler.

Coach Dwane Casey said they'll be expected to be much more than just veteran voices in the locker-room in this grind of a season.

"All those (veteran) guys are going to get more minutes than they can stand. We'll have a solid rotation but still distributing minutes with the number of games that are coming as rapidly as they are going to come," Casey said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Argonauts swing deal for Ray

► Toronto sends Jyles, kicker, second-overall pick to Edmonton for QB ► 32-year-old has won two Grey Cups

Ricky Ray is heading East. The Toronto Argonauts acquired the veteran quarterback from the Edmonton Eskimos for quarterback Steven Jyles, kicker Grant Shaw and the second-overall selection in the 2012 CFL Canadian Col-

lege Draft.

"Our mission since 2010 has been to build the Argos into a consistent and credible football team," Argos general manager Jim Barker said in a statement. "This trade moves that process along and demonstrates

our commitment to re-establishing Argos football in this city. While we gave up a lot, we felt it was important to be aggressive and go after what we needed.

"This trade is an investment by our organization in the future of the Double

Blue and in its new on-field leader, Ricky Ray."

Edmonton GM Eric Tillman said he didn't enter the off-season intent on trading Ray. However, he added the Argos' dogged pursuit of the veteran quarterback resulted in a deal

that Tillman believes makes the Eskimos younger and improves their Canadian content.

"They were very aggressive," Tillman said. "We were not looking to trade Ricky and were very reluctant to do so."

But Jyles won't be handed the Eskimos starting job. Tillman said Jyles will have to compete in training camp for the No. 1 position against veteran Kerry Joseph and youngsters Matt Nichols and Eric Ward.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Halifax Regional Municipality and surrounding areas

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Type of position: determinate part-time (day, evening and weekend) position

Rate of pay: \$14.72 an hour plus other applicable premiums

Official languages: bilingual and English

Requirements:

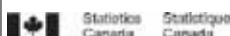
- aged 18 years or older
- a valid work permit
- having graduated from High School
- experience in basic keyboarding
- experience working with the public
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Asset: experience as an interviewer

If you meet the above criteria, please send your resume by midnight, December 19 to:

Kathleen Higgins
Fax: 902-426-8292 or 1-800-972-7780
Email: kathleen.higgins@statcan.gc.ca

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INTERVIEWEURS

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Kathleen Higgins
Télécopieur : 902-426-8292 1-800-972-7780
Courriel : kathleen.higgins@statcan.gc.ca

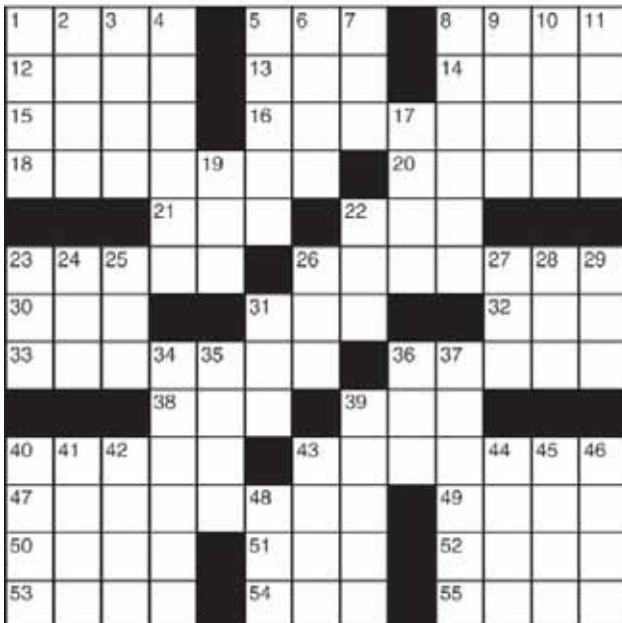
Statistique Canada s'est engagé à respecter la *Loi Sur l'équité en matière d'emploi*. Nous invitons les femmes, les Autochtones, les personnes handicapées et les membres des minorités visibles à s'identifier.



Crossword

Across

- 1 Double agent
5 Sis' sib
8 Havana's country
12 Pre-diploma hurdle
13 Scarlet
14 October birthstone
15 Withered
16 Firewood supports
18 Humanlike robot
20 Apartment-complex unit
21 Pistol
22 Half-score
23 Rags-to-riches author
26 Moderately slow in music
30 Arthur or Lillie
31 Pismire
32 Physicist Georg
33 Pyrenees principal-ity
36 Refuges
38 Chinese cook's vessel
39 Matterhorn, e.g.
40 Prince William's mother
43 Massachusetts city
47 Pamela or Loni
49 Strong wind
50 Use a teaspoon
51 Blackbird
52 Gaelic
53 Red — (candy)
54 Tiny
55 Kept watch on
Down
1 Small plateau
2 Yoked team
3 Fat
4 Come out



- 5 Gray matter
6 Tear
7 Peculiar
8 Ring around the sun
9 "Once — a time"
10 Musical combo
11 As well
17 On the rocks
19 "— Town"
22 Explosive letters
23 Lawyers' org.
24 Cariou of Broadway
25 Wander about
26 Literary

- collection
27 Ph. bk. info
28 Winnie — Pooh
29 Type measures
31 Noah's boat
34 Deed holders
35 Bellow
36 On in years
37 Farthest point in an orbit
39 "Tomorrow" tyke
40 Morse morsel
41 Grooving on
42 Mine entrance
43 Top-notch
44 Change

- 45 Otherwise
46 Saxophone need
48 Witnessed

► Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ►



Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

To Peaches

Hello — the Peaches I have written to (in vain it seems) probably wouldn't address as "Howdie". Also, he would likely not contact me at all, as is angry & it's complicated. Peaches, AKA Petal. I'm done trying anyway. Sorry for any confusion.

FROM ME

Oi!

Jeez you're cute! I honestly can't say that enough times. Someday I'll be the one planting kisses on those adorable cheeks.

FROM CAPTAIN

Matty

Where have you been? I haven't seen you for 3 days now. I miss seeing your face. I hope to see you tomorrow.

FROM R

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 The truth must be told and you are the one who must do the telling.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Your attitude will harden today and you will refuse to make the changes that others demand.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Spell out what it is you are planning to do over the next few days and make sure everyone knows that you are serious about your ambitions.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Let certain people know that you will no longer do their bidding.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23 You're allowed to change your mind, and you're allowed to change your ambitions too.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22 It will be easier for you to explain what you have been up to in recent weeks.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You will find it ridiculously easy to get people to do what you desire today.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The best way to win others round to your big idea is to come up with so many facts and figures that they simply cannot deny that you know

what you are talking about.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 It's time to get serious about something you have been putting off for weeks or months.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Don't let worries and fears get the better of you.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 If you cannot handle something alone, ask for assistance.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. You will find it quite easy to get your message across to employers and other important people today.

● SALLY BROMPTON

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

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5°/-4°
Variable

Wednesday

1°/-5°
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